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Message Text

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67
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 H-03 EB-11

DRC-01 OTPE-00 /041 W
---------- 064509
R 200254Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 474

UNCLAS TAIPEI 7562

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OGEN, TW
SUBJECT: SENATOR SCOTT'S INQUIRY RE AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS IN TAIWAN

REF : STATE 243155

SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO OVERCOME ROC OPPOSITION TO AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS. END SUMMARY

1. ROC DOES NOT PERMIT AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS ON TAIWAN. EMBASSY HAS BEEN DIRECTLY INFORMED OF THIS A NUMBER OF TIMES. MOST RECENTLY, IN APRIL 21 LETTER PASSED TO EMBASSY, VICE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS WANG INFORMED SENATOR GOLDWATER, WHO HAD INQUIRED ON BEHALF OF PRIVATE US CITIZEN, AS FOLLOWS: "IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS CONCERNING ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL RADIO STATIONS AND SPECIAL WIRE TELEPHONE SYSTEM AND TELE-COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY RULES DURING THE MOBILIZATION PERIOD. . . NO ALIENS CAN ESTABLISH RADIO STATIONS INCLUDING AMATEUR RADIO STATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY."

2. IN RECENT HISTORY THE SOLE KNOWN EXCEPTIONS TO THE BAN ON FOREIGN AMATEURS IN TAIWAN WERE CLUB STATION OPERATIONS ON US MILITARY BASES UNTIL LATE SUMMER 1966. THESE WERE APPARENTLY SANCTIONED INFORMALLY BY THE ROC MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AS AN EXTENSION OF THE MILITARY AFFILIATES RADIO SYSTEM (MARS) OPERATION WHICH
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STILL CONTINUE. CLUB STATION OPERATIONS WERE TERMINATED

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APPARENTLY AS A RESULT OF IMPORPER OPERATION BY ONE OR MORE SUCH STATIONS. WE HAVE RECEIVED FREQUENT THOUGH NOT DIRECTLY PROVEN REPORTS OF UNAUTHORIZED OPERATION BY SOME MARS STATIONS IN AMATEUR BANDS.

3. EMBASSY HAS MADE CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO REVERSE ROC POLICY ON THIS MATTER. ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR AMATEUR OPERATIONS BY EMBASSY STAFF IN LETTER TO FONOFF DATED FEBRUARY 10, 1972. RESPONSE WAS ORAL TURNDOWN. ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1972, DCM WROTE FURTHER LETTER TO FONOFF URGING SOME WAY BE FOUND TO PERMIT RESPONSIBLE US GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL TO CARRY ON WITH CONSTRUCTIVE HOBBY. LETTER SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT OR OTHER MEANS OF OBTAINING AUTHORITY FOR US AMATEUR RADIO LICENSEES TO OPERATE IN TAIWAN.

EMBASSY OFFERED TO GO TO CONSIDERABLE LENGTHS TO SATISFY ROC CONCERNS ABOUT SECURITY. MONTH LATER, DCM VISITED FONOFF TO EMPHASIZE EMBASSY INTEREST. NEVERTHELESS, ROC ONCE AGAIN TURNED DOWN REQUEST, THIS TIME IN WRITING.

4. IT QUITE CLEAR ROC WILL NOT BEND ON THIS ISSUE. THE CONTROLLING FACTOR IS ATTITUDE OF TAIWAN GARRISON COMMAND AND PERHAPS OTHER INTERNAL SECURITY AGENCIES TO WHAT THEY SEE AS A POTENTIAL SECURITY THREAT. MINISTRIES OF COMMUNICATIONS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED BUT HAVE NO CLOUT. EVEN EMBASSY OFFER TO GUARANTEE GOOD BEHAVIOR OF ITS EMPLOYEES HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENT TO REVERSE NEGATIVE POSITION, NOR HAS PRECEDENT OF ROK AND RVN EXPERIENCE. MCCONAUTHY

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